

On the validity of *Phractocephalus* Agassiz, 1829, vs. *Pirarara* Agassiz, 1829

(Osteichthyes: Pimelodidae)

By Maurice Kottelat

Kottelat, M. (1989): On the validity of *Phractocephalus* Agassiz, 1829, vs. *Pirarara* Agassiz, 1829 (Osteichthyes: Pimelodidae). — *Spixiana* 12/3: 321

Phractocephalus Agassiz, 1829 is shown to have priority over *Pirarara* Agassiz, 1829.

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In a recent publication (Kottelat 1988), I discussed the nomenclature of some Brazilian fishes described in Spix & Agassiz (1829–1831). Some of the problems met with this work resulted from the use of different names for the same taxa on the plates and in the text. As I stated (p. 77), when this occurs in the first fascicle, the first reviser is Agassiz in the Conspectus which appeared with the second fascicle.

In my discussion of the pimelodid catfish genus *Phractocephalus* Agassiz or *Pirarara* Agassiz, I stated that Bleeker (1862) is the first reviser and retained *Pirarara*. This was likely to create some nomenclatural problem, as these fishes are important food fishes and as *Pirarara* has almost never been used since its original description. Actually, the first reviser is Agassiz (1831: Conspectus) who refers to:

Phractocephalus bicolor Agass. — Tab. VI. (*Pirarara bicolor* Spix).

This is clearly a first reviser action and *Phractocephalus* has priority over *Pirarara*.

In the same way, Agassiz retained *Prochilodus* Agassiz as having priority over *Pacu* Agassiz and *Rhaphiodon* Agassiz as having priority over *Cynodon*. In both cases, this predates Müller & Troschel (1844) which I had retained as first revisers; as Müller & Troschel had retained the same names as valid, this does not affect the conclusion of my discussion of these taxa.

I thank Ms R. A. Cooper, ICZN Secretariat, for calling my attention on this problem.

References

Refer to the following paper for a full list of the literature mentioned above:

Kottelat, M. 1988. Authorship, dates of publication, status and types of Spix and Agassiz's Brazilian fishes. — *Spixiana* 11: 69–93